

CANBERRA TIMES 22 OCT 1964

# China decade behind U.K.

Communist China would not have the nuclear capacity of Great Britain for at least 10 years, Sir Mark Oliphant said yesterday.

He was commenting on the importance of the first Chinese nuclear test last Friday.

Sir Mark, head of the physics of ionised gases unit at the Australian National University Research School of Physical Sciences, returned this week after a four-week visit to China as a member of a delegation from the Australian Academy of Science.

The delegation, which was invited to China by the Academia Sinica, was led by the President of the Academy, Professor T. M. Cherry.

The other members were the Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University, Professor E. S. Hills, and the Director of the Institute of Agriculture at the University of Western Australia, Professor E. J. Underwood.

## Emphasis on technology

Back in his office at the A.N.U. yesterday, Sir Mark recalled his visits to universities, factories, communes, private homes and theatres.

"In the field of science, the main emphasis was on technology," he said.

"They don't show us so well in the field of pure science, because they are not very interested in any aspect of science which is not applicable to their present stage of development."

Sir Mark said the Chinese had reached a competent but not extraordinarily high standard in nuclear physics.

This was because nuclear development was long-term work, and their immediate concern was with the present.

"We have no information to indicate whether they are working on rocketry, but they are building aircraft and they certainly have the necessary techniques."

"I believe it will be a long time, at least 10 years, before China becomes a world nuclear power in the same sense as Great Britain, let alone the United States or Russia."

## Reciprocal visits

"However, there are 700 million people in China, educational standards are high, and science and technology are being concentrated on."

"To put any limit on what these people can achieve would be foolish."

Sir Mark said, a delegation of Communist Chinese scientists would visit Australia and other Chinese scientists would work in Australian universities and lecture.

Australia would obtain fruitful results from developing contact with China, particularly in agriculture, engineering and technology.

He said the main purpose of the Australian delegation's visit to China was to discuss the possibility of arranging an exchange of scientists between Australia and China.

Complete agreement had been reached.

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Sir Mark believes it will be impossible for Australia to continue refusing to recognise Communist China.

"The question of disarmament now has no meaning without the participation of China," he said.

"The fact that their form of government is different from ours is something we must not take too much notice of."

"We must have contact with them, otherwise we are ignoring one of the great realities in this world."

## Taiwan centre of bitterness

Sir Mark said the Chinese were annoyed about the occupation of Taiwan by the United States and Chiang Kai-shek.

He felt that if negotiations could bring about the handing-over of Taiwan to China, the Chinese would cease to be so aggressive.

"In my naive way, I ask whether this could not be done without the loss of defensibility or power for the West."

The main purpose of the visit by the Australian delegation to China was to discuss with the Chinese Academy the possibility of arranging an exchange of scientists between Australia and China.

"We reached complete agreement on what we should do," Sir Mark said. "It has been decided that a return delegation of Chinese scientists will visit Australia, and that Chinese scientists will visit Australia to work in our universities and to give lectures."

## Little concern at changes

Sir Mark said Australia would obtain fruitful results from developing contacts with China.

"We can learn much from their work in the fields of agriculture, engineering and technology."

The Chinese were capable of admitting their own mistakes—something which the Australian Government never did, he said.

The Australian party was in China last week when China exploded her first nuclear device, and when the replacement of Mr. Krushchev was announced.

"The Chinese to whom we spoke did not seem very concerned about the new development in Russia," Sir Mark said.

"They believed it wouldn't make any difference to Russia's relations with China, because Brezhnev was 'one of Krushchev's men'."

"The news of the nuclear explosion was received with remarkable equanimity."

## Nauseating propaganda

On a more general plane, Sir Mark said the tremendous advance that had been achieved in the lives of the ordinary people struck visitors to China who had had contact with other Asian countries.

Abject poverty had been completely eliminated, and the morality of the people was extraordinarily high.

"You have the feeling of being in Puritan England—there is no evidence of extremes of any kind."

Another striking feature of the country was the continuous, "almost nauseating," process of propaganda.

"News is completely filtered for Chinese consumption so that they get only bad impressions of Western countries," he said.

"Nothing in the way of Western achievements is reported if it can be avoided."

"By and large, however, whatever one thinks of the Chinese regime, it is working extraordinarily well."

Sir Mark said the Chinese people were open-hearted, showed no trace of the "inscrutable Oriental," and were proud of their achievements.

## Curbs on population

"The Chinese are very bitter about Russia removing her experts from China," he said.

"When one considers what the Chinese have achieved since then, however, one realises that it was a great blessing through which the Chinese have discovered self-reliance."

Sir Mark said Chinese scientists were greatly concerned with the population problem.

However, through birth control and discouraging marriage before the age of 25, the population increase was already slowing down.

At present, however, the system was working well.

"To underestimate China is to make a great mistake, but it is an equally grave error to overestimate China as a threat to the West," he said.

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## Visa scrutiny

The Government examined each application for a visa to enter Australia on its merits, the Minister for Immigration, Mr. Opperman, told Mr. Courtney (Lab. Darebin). Mr. Courtney asked Mr. Opperman whether the Government intended to refuse visa to a delegation of Chinese scientists planning a visit to Australia next year. He said Australian scientists had said the visit would be of great advantage to Australia.

Mr. Opperman said visas had been refused to people from Communist countries who wanted to attend the Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament.

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The Age, Saturday, October 24, 1964 5

# SCIENCE HEAD WANTS RED CHINA IN U.N.

CANBERRA. — The president of the Australian Academy of Science (Professor T. MacFarland Cherry) yesterday urged admission of Communist China to the United Nations.

Professor Cherry, a mathematician, was head of a delegation of four scientists which returned this week after a month in China as guests of Academia Sinica.

The delegation included the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University (Professor E. S. Hills) and Professor Sir Mark Oliphant.

## Own Opinion

Professor Cherry said the delegation had concluded that the potential power of China for good or ill was very great and that it was most important early steps be taken to bring it into the councils of nations.

His personal opinion was that China should be accorded diplomatic recognition and admission to U.N.

The main argument against it would be that the Government is not sufficiently stable, but it has been there for 15 years," he said.

"Surely to have China around the conference table

is better than having it outside."

Professor Cherry said the delegation had seen a large range of Chinese-produced products, from fountain pens and watches to heavy engineering goods.

From this evidence and from that implicit in the recent test of a nuclear device, it is apparent that China is capable of matching the West in quality and variety of production," he added.

He said he found great resentment in the universities of the withdrawal of Soviet aid, although this was the best thing that could have happened to Communist China, because it forced them to be self-reliant.

"Self-reliance is one of the great slogans there," he said.

## Enormous Task

"The Communist regime has clearly performed an enormous task in the 15 years since it achieved power, and, so far as we

can judge, it commands the loyalty, with fervent devotion to Mao, of the younger people.

"We can have no firm evidence of the attitude of older people."

Professor Cherry said people the delegation had spoken to seemed uninterested in Australia except in the scientific research being done here.

The ratio of staff to students in Chinese universities was about five to one, compared with about 13 to one in Australia.

About two-thirds of Chinese university staff were junior.

## Book Supply

University scientific research had expanded at least fourfold since 1952. The chief effort had been in technological fields and more basic research seemed mostly to be well behind that of advanced Western countries.

None of the three universities visited had fewer than a million books, mostly Chinese — about twice the number of Melbourne University.

Professor Cherry said young people in China appeared extremely happy and children looked well cared for.

For the man in the street, the present Government was honest and was the first stable Government China had had.

The Government had reduced crimes such as theft and prostitution and had cleaned up the country physically.

"There are fewer flies in Peking than in Canberra," Professor Cherry said.

WHY?  
NOT

WHO  
COUNTED?  
WHAT VINTAGE?

NOW THERE IS A  
WORTHWHILE ACHIEVEMENT!

Monday, October 26, 1964.

## TIME TO END CHINA'S ISOLATION

**PROFESSORS** Oliphant and Cherry are only two of many who have urged, since the explosion of China's first nuclear bomb, that new efforts should now be made to bring Communist China into the United Nations. The arguments for this are, indeed, very strong. The ban on nuclear tests in the atmosphere—the one important achievement in 15 years of disarmament talks—is already threatened by China's refusal to recognise it. Any further measures to stop the spread of nuclear weapons will be useless if China takes no part in them. Indeed, any kind of disarmament or arms control will be almost impossible without agreement of the newest nuclear Power.

In theory, of course, China could take part in discussions on arms control without being a member of the United Nations. The Peking Government has itself proposed a summit conference to discuss the destruction of all nuclear weapons without making any such condition. But everyone knows that this is pure propaganda. A conference to discuss that would run straight into all the old problems of inspection and verification which have bedevilled every conference on this subject since the last war. There is not the least likelihood that China will prove more amenable to international inspection than Russia has been. She might even be less so.

The best that can be hoped is that experience and understanding of the terrible power of nuclear weapons will gradually persuade the Chinese leaders of the need to enter into the kind of agreements, tacit as well as written, which Russia and the United States have accepted to make nuclear life less intolerably dangerous. For this it would certainly be an advantage if China were a full member of the community of nations, in constant diplomatic touch with other world Powers. This, however, is not quite so simple as it sounds.

*Really!* It was easy for first Britain and then France to recognise Red China because neither of them had to solve the problem of Formosa and the Nationalist Chinese Government. (General de Gaulle just ignored it). But the United States, the only country that matters in this business, could not possibly accept Professor Oliphant's advice and just hand over Formosa to Red China even if she were willing to do so. It would be hard to imagine anything more cynical or more destructive of confidence in South-east Asia than to hand over a country of 10 million people without consulting them, or to betray the Nationalist Government to its deadly enemies.

This does not mean that nothing should be done. After the Presidential election the United States Administration must surely tackle this problem which it has left far too long, and the Australian Government should support it. But the solution must be on the lines of the recognition of Formosa as an independent nation. It is believed that Mr. Krushchev was once in favour of accepting a "two Chinas" policy and actually tried to persuade Peking to accept it. But Mr. Krushchev is gone. It is not easy to feel optimistic about the chances of Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Kosygin succeeding where he failed. The West, however, cannot leave it all to the Communists. The isolation of China is one of the great political blunders since the war. It is time to end it now.